

Morrison, Fulton, and Sterling Joint Council meeting
Morrison Library Community Room
307 South Madison Street, Morrison, IL

October 16, 2012
4:30 pm

Morrison Mayor Roger Drey called the special meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Quorum present for Morrison. Quorum present for Fulton. Sterling: Present: Aldermen Elston, Marley, Martin, and Viering. Absent: Aldermen Cox and Sotelo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no public comments.

Brian Hollenback and Beth Payne, representatives of Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation (GROWTH), summarized their successes and presented information regarding the Northwestern Illinois Housing Coalition Consortium Agreement. The consortium agreement allows Rock Island, Moline, Morrison, Fulton, and Sterling to join forces in order to apply for grant funding. Regional applications are stronger with a comprehensive redevelopment program. GROWTH is a non-profit agency that gives this project another advantage.

The amounts requested in the application are \$2 million for Sterling, \$750,000 for Morrison, and \$3 million for Fulton. The funds are from the National Attorney Generals' Mortgage Foreclosure Settlement. Funds will help stabilize and redevelop vacant and abandoned properties, as well as commercial enterprises. The proposal will be submitted Friday on behalf of the Consortium.

Morrison Council members presented questions, such as the cost, what each City needs to do, what is the environmental review process, and how private sources are affected. There is no cost to the communities involved. GROWTH will be compensated through the grant process for administration. Environmental reviews pertain to items like historic area requirements, zoning, flood zones, or major highways. Each community agrees that the funds will be used for what they are intended. If monies are secured, private sources through local bank lending, may be leveraged to increase spending power, but cities are not responsible for matching funds.

Sterling Mayor "Skip" Lee introduced Mike Wolber, Sterling's grant administrator. Mayor Lee commented that Sterling has had the opportunity to benefit from a grant and working with the GROWTH. The largest problem Sterling faced was trying to spend all the money in the allotted amount of time. Lee believes it is a great opportunity for all of our communities.

Fulton Mayor Russell asked if commercial property projects will be managed by GROWTH. Hollenback replied that GROWTH will manage those.

Alderman Viering made a motion to enter into an agreement for participation as a Consortium Member in the Northwestern Illinois Housing Coalition's Rebuilding Northwestern Illinois Initiative and to permit the Mayor to enter into the agreement and all associated documents; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Marley, Martin and Viering. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Morrison and Fulton Councils also approved action to enter into the agreement for participation as a Consortium Member in the Northwestern Illinois Housing Coalition's Rebuilding Northwestern Illinois Initiative.

With no further business, Morrison Mayor Drey adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk